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 politics determined to be (1 of full article)

by Yoshio KODAMA, a nationalist leader.

My life ended when I entered Sugamo Prison as a war criminal. But I could not be connected with politics again when I was released from the prison at the end of 1948, because I felt pity for MATAYAMA, who had been purged at that time on account of a plot by some persons, and resolved to overthrow those plotters.

I cannot understand why Japan, which was defeated in the last war, seeks her Prime Minister among old persons over 70 years old. I think this is a great cause for Japan being unable to get out of a bad fix. In that sense, I am disappointed with the absurdity of the present Japanese politics more than nationalists whose ideas are different from ours.

I had valuable experiences in the prison. More than 50 persons including General MASHIMOTO entered the prison at that time. Among them, there were Generals and Ministers. At first, they fake a false show of power. But after improvements, they became very honest. When a man faces death for some time, he loses tenacity and desire for things to such an extent as is incredible to ordinary persons. Accordingly I thought that politics would be improved if politicians were trained for two or three years in the prison.

I think Japan will be ruined and become a socialist country governed by the Socialist Party if the Liberal-Democratic Party continues to conduct the affairs of state as it does now. Nearly two million young people acquire the right to vote every year. But they can sympathize with neither the ideas of the conservative party nor the policies of the Socialist Party. I think, therefore, that the Liberal-Democratic Party must improve itself or that a political body which will take a position between the present conservative and the Socialist parties must be formed.

If socialism is less dangerous than it looks, it will be all right to hand over the reins of government to the Socialist Party. But in the present Capitalist Party, the left faction is rather predominant over the right faction. I think it is dangerous to hand over the reins of government to the party so long as the party remains unrealistic, idealistic and infantilistic as at present.

There are cries against manufacture of atom bombs throughout the world. It is more absurd than this. It will be ineffective for the Japanese people to cry under the leadership of the socialists against atom bombs, which rise is making with tremendous funds. Rather it will be effective to demand that atom bombs be distributed among all nations including small countries in proportion to population. If this is done, I think it will be the shortest route to prevention of war and a sure means for prohibiting atom bombs.

It is strange for the Socialists to oppose military bases and demand that American soldiers be withdrawn like infantilistic rightists who formerly advocated patriotism blindly. They should consider how many persons will be killed if military bases are abolished. This may come when the CHIANG Kai-shek Government in Taiwan will fall. Then if Red China takes Taiwan, what strategics will Okinawa and Japan have?

America gave up Indo-China because she changed her policy. America has learnt from Okinawa what looked a huge amount of money in the eyes of the Japanese. But the amount is not large in the eyes of Americans. If America decides that 10,000 soldiers are sure to fall in action to defend Okinawa in a war, she will evacuate from Okinawa even if she invests billions of dollars in Okinawa. In such an eventuality what should Japan do? Do the Socialists think that the Soviet Union will offer a helping hand then? This seems unlikely in view of their tactics to keep Japanese POW's as hostage. If the Socialist Party succeeds in getting them released, we shall have a better opinion of them.

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